

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held by the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control regarding the proposal by the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport (UCRA) to place fill in 10.08 acres of jurisdictional wetland. The meeting is for the purpose of taking comments regarding the economic and social justification of the applicant pursuant to the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement, Administrative Rule 1200-4-3.06. The project requires a water quality permit from the state of Tennessee under *The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* and a §401 Water Quality Certification under the *Clean Water Act*.

The details of the Public Meeting are as follows:

Date: October 19, 2006

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: White County Courthouse
1 East Bockman Way
Third Floor Courtroom
Sparta, TN 38583

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to expand the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport facility. The division issued an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit to UCRA on February 2, 2004. UCRA relinquished this permit based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision to regulate the wetlands at the airport.

The project will involve the placement of fill in three isolated wetlands totaling 10.08 acres. Compensation for the wetland impacts will occur at two sites. The first is the 30.33 acre Gum Springs site approximately 13.2 miles from the airport. A combination of 5.01 acres of wetland restoration, 3.8 acres of creation and 18.72 acres of enhancement will occur. A state listed threatened species, *Xyris laxifolia* var. *iridifolia* (wide -leaf yellow eyed grass).

In addition, the applicant shall purchase an approximate 10.3 acre site on Breeding Swamp Road, just to the west of the proposed project. This site is adjacent to wetlands owned by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The applicant proposes to enhance 8.15 acres and restore 2.15 acres. The site contains two state listed species of special concern, *Xyris ambigua* and *Eriocaulon decangulare*. In addition, the applicant has agreed to aid in the transfer and establishment of the barking tree frog (*Hyla gratiosa*) from the airport wetland to the Gum Springs wetland mitigation site.

Both mitigation sites will require occasional maintenance to maintain these species. They will be protected in perpetuity through the division's Land Use Restrictions document and/or conveyance to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The mitigation sites shall be monitored with performance criteria.

The division has determined that the waters in which fill would be placed are Tier II high quality and that the work as proposed would result in degradation or more than *de minimis* impact.

The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport is therefore requesting permission to degrade Tier II waters. This request must be justified based on economic and social necessity and that there are no feasible alternatives to filling these waters that would allow the project to be implemented as proposed. The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport provided an Economic and Social Justification Document on June 30, 2006 for the proposed project.

The public meeting will be held regarding the applicant's request to proceed with this project based on their economic and social justification of the proposed project despite the Division's finding that the project will result in degradation to Tier II waters.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposal are invited to deliver oral or written comment at the public meeting. Written testimony will be accepted for at least 10 days following the meeting and will be considered part of the official record. The public is also invited to submit comments in writing to the Division of Water Pollution Control at the address printed below. Comments will be accepted from the date of this notice until at least 10 days after the date of the public meeting. After considering all public comments, the division will publish a notice announcing the division's determination of whether or not the degradation is justified.

Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (or to review these filings) should contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to discuss any auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate such participation. Such contact may be in person, by writing, telephone, or other means and should be made no less than ten days prior to October 19, 2006, to allow time to provide such aid or services. Contact the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

The permit application and supporting documentation, including the economic and social justification, are available for review at the division office during business hours at the following addresses:

Division of Water Pollution Control attn:Mike Lee
7th Floor, Life and Casualty Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1534
(615) 532-0712

Cookeville Environmental Field Office
1221 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506

